

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An embossed carrier tape ~~which comprises~~
comprising a sheet having at least one embossed pocket, wherein the sheet has a tear strength
of at least 105 N/mm as defined in Japanese Industrial Standard K-7128-3 and ~~comprising~~
comprises at least one thermoplastic resin other than a polyphenylene ether resin.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The embossed carrier tape according to Claim 10,
wherein at least one surface of the sheet has a surface resistance ~~of at least one surface~~ of at
most $10^{12} \Omega/\square$.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The ~~sheet~~ embossed carrier tape according to Claim
11, wherein the sheet is a single-layer sheet.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The embossed carrier tape according to Claim 11,
wherein the sheet is a multi-layer sheet.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The ~~sheet~~ embossed carrier tape according to Claim
13, wherein the sheet has a base layer and an electrically conductive surface layer.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An embossed carrier tape ~~which comprises~~
comprising a sheet ~~comprising~~ having at least one embossed pocket, wherein the sheet
comprises a thermoplastic resin, ~~having~~ has a base layer and a surface layer having a surface
resistance of at most $10^{12} \Omega/\square$ on both sides of the base layer, and ~~having~~ has a tear strength of
at least 105 N/mm as defined the Japanese Industrial Standard K-7128-3.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

This Amendment amends Claims 10-12 and 14-15. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for "embossed pocket" in Claims 10 and 15 is found in Claims 10 and 15 and in the specification at least at page 5, lines 16-17 ("embossed carrier tape having a pocket size of ..."). Support for Claim 11 is found in Claim 11. Support for Claims 12 and 14-15 is found at least in Claim 10. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 10-15 will be pending in this application. Claims 10 and 15 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative during the July 28, 2004, personal interview.

As discussed at the personal interview, the present invention provides an embossed carrier tape that can be used for packaging electronic components such as integrated circuits. The embossed carrier tape includes embossed pockets for accommodating the electronic components. In use, the embossed pockets containing the electronic components are covered with a cover tape, and this covered embossed carrier tape is rolled up for delivery. When the electronic components are ready to be soldered to a substrate, the rolled embossed carrier tape is unrolled, the cover tape is peeled off, and the electronic components are removed from the embossed pockets of the embossed carrier tape. Applicants have discovered that breakage of embossed carrier tapes during high speed mounting of electronic components on

substrates can be significantly reduced by setting the tear strength of the embossed carrier tape to at least 105 N/mm as defined in Japanese Industrial Standard K-7128-3.

Claims 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Japanese Patent Publication No. 08258888 ("Miyamoto").

Miyamoto discloses a **flat**, multi-layered **cover tape** for covering embossed carrier tapes. Miyamoto discloses that by setting the adhesion strength between the cover tape's adhesive layer 5 and the embossed carrier tape 6 to be larger than the interlayer adhesion strength between the cover tape's intermediate layer 4 and adhesive layer 5, the cover tape can be peeled from the embossed carrier tape 6 with a more stable peel-off strength. English-language translation of Miyamoto filed August 3, 2004, at page 17, lines 1-17; Figures.

However, Miyamoto fails to suggest the independent Claim 10 limitation of an **embossed carrier tape** "comprising a sheet having at least one **embossed pocket**, wherein the sheet has a tear strength of at least 105 N/mm as defined in Japanese Industrial Standard K-7128-3 and comprises at least one thermoplastic resin other than a polyphenylene ether resin"; or the independent Claim 15 limitation of an **embossed carrier tape** "comprising a sheet having at least one **embossed pocket**, wherein the sheet comprises a thermoplastic resin, has a base layer and a surface layer having a surface resistance of at most $10^{12}\Omega/\square$ on both sides of the base layer, and has a tear strength of at least 105 N/mm as defined the Japanese Industrial Standard K-7128-3".

Thus, the rejection over Miyamoto should be withdrawn.

Claim 15 is objected to. To obviate the objection, Claim 15 is amended.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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